

# Mmen language

**Mmem** (Bafmeng) is a Grassfields Bantu language of Cameroon.

As a Centre Ring language of Narrow Grassfields, a subdivision of Wide Grassfields within the Southern Bantoid languages, Mmen is part of a cluster including six other languages i.e. Babanki, Bum, Kom, Kuk, Kung and Oku (Lewis 2009).

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## Etymology

The name Mmen ([mɛn]) comes from the verb sé mwè̀yn [sémyè̀yn] ‘to open up thick bush-covered land’ and is used by the speakers referring to both their language and their land. It was also used by surrounding people until the German colonizers entered the area and gave it the name Bafumen . Bafumen is also the name of the village where the largest number of speakers is found i.e. 30 000 (Troyer, et al. 1995:8). Ethnologue (Lewis 2009) and ALCAM, Atlas Linguistique du Cameroon (Dieu and Renaud 1983) use the name and spelling Mmen and is therefore the name used within this paper as well. Other villages where Mmen is spoken are Cha’, Yemgeh, Nyos, Ipalim among others.

## Bibliography

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## References

1.

Mmen (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/bfm/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

Mmen	
<i>Bafmeng</i>	
Native to	Cameroon
Native speakers	35,000 (2001) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Southern Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grassfields<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ring<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Center<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Mmen</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	bfm
Glottolog	mmen1238 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/mmen1238">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/mmen1238</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Mmen" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mmen1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

## External links

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- [A Phonological Sketch of the Mmen Language \(http://www.silcam.org/documents/MmenPhonologySept2010.pdf\)](http://www.silcam.org/documents/MmenPhonologySept2010.pdf) Information about the Mmen language and its speakers

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